

REMARKS

Applicants concurrently file herewith a Request for Continued Examination (RCE), a Petition for Extension of Time for a one-month extension of time, and corresponding fees.

Claims 1 and 2 are all of the claims presently pending the application. Claim 1 has been amended to more particularly define the claimed invention.

Applicants specifically state that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim. It is noted that controlling the amounts of Cr and N, as recited in the claimed invention, improves the dampability.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1 and 2, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: December 7, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott M. Tulino', is written over a horizontal line.

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